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THE GREAT EXPANSION OF JAPANESE MILITARISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Communist China -

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## THE GREAT EXPANSION OF JAPANESE MILITARISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

[Following is a translation of an unsigned editorial in the Chinese-language newspaper Tu Kung Pao, Peiping, 29 May 1960, pages 1 & 4.]

The Japanese U.S. military pact represents a further step in trying Japan to the American war machine as well as in driving the Japanese people to serve as cannon fodder for American aggression in Asia. At the same time, this pact is shaping up a northeast Asian aggressive bloc with Japan as its nucleus, which when combined with the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization would rebuild a "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere." The aim is to control the rich resources of the various countries of Southeast Asia and to effect political, military, and economic expansion. In view of the appearance of an incomparably strong socialist system on the eastern Asian mainland, the primary target of the present Japanese militarism and American imperialism is Southeast Asia. The people of these countries, who had once suffered the blood-stained occupation of Japanese imperialists, cannot but be more vigilant, strengthen their unity, and struggle unflinchingly to smash the Japanese-U.S. military pact.

The Japanese monopolistic interests, having grown entirely under American tutelage and having built themselves on the cruel exploitation of Japanese labor, now have achieved rapid recovery and expansion. As of February this year, Japanese industrial productivity was already three and even fourtimes the pre-war level. On the other hand, Japanese export trade last year was only 21% more than the pre-war level. To alleviate this growing contradiction between the production and the distribution figures, Japanese monopolistic interests have been persistently demanding the expansion of their markets abroad. Southeast Asia thus represents the "paradise of trade" to these interests. In a diplomatic blue-book issued last year, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs openly advocated the creation of a sphere of Japanese influence in Southeast Asia comparable in scope to that of the United States in Latin America and the United Kingdom in the sterling area. From the headquarters of Japanese monopolistic interests - the Federation of Japanese Economic Societies - Ishizaka Taizo, its president, declared that the new Japanese U.S. "security treaty" provides the needed opportunity to promote economic integration of Japan and the

United States and eventually to create a Pacific Common Market, that would include Japan, the United States, Canada, and the Philippines. One month before the signing of the Japanese-U.S. military pact, the former premier of Japan, Yoshida, journeyed to Southeast Asia on a special mission. After his return to Japan, he proposed that the Japanese program for the economic penetration of Southeast Asia be drastically strengthened. The head of the Economics Division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Ushiba Nobuhiko, boasted in an article in the May issue of the Gaikojiho (Foreign Affairs) that Japan "necessarily represents the best interests of Southeast Asia." Already, Japanese private capital has been streaming continuously into Southeast Asia. According to a report of the Japanese Ministry of Finance, the net amount of investment made by Japanese monopolistic interest abroad already totaled by the end of March this year some US \$1,300,000,000 (with investments of some US \$600,000,000 already committed). They reach the far-flung corners of Southeast Asia and various other underdeveloped countries. Besides these, the Japanese monopolistic interests are employing the US\$1,000,000,000 war reparations as a knife to thrust into the heart of Southeast Asia as preparation for Japan's second "drive southward." It is the Japanese-U.S. military pact that enables these interests to achieve their expansion in Southeast Asia. Both the preamble and the second article of the treaty stated the desire of the two countries for "economic cooperation" to promote this expansion. In the joint communique, Eisenhower and Kishi referred particularly to "the increasing role Japan is playing in the economic development of free Asia." All these facts clearly demonstrated not only the threat posed by the collusion of American and Japanese reactionaries to the peoples of Southeast Asia but also the imperialist ambitions of Japanese militarism to invade Southeast Asia.

To execute this treacherous deed, the Japanese monopolistic interests are employing such means as war reparations, investments, credits, trade dumping, and the outflow of skills to infiltrate Southeast Asia and to gain economic strangle-hold over this area. At the same time, the Kishi clique and the American imperialists are using every means at their disposal to break up the friendly relations among the countries of Asia. The Japanese Foreign Minister Fujiyama Aiichiro himself acknowledged: "The duty of Japan is to unite the peace-loving neutral countries with the anti-Communist countries." Obviously, such tactics are serving the vanguard of American imperialism, conceitedly trying to realize an unpractical plot: the split of inter-Asian unity and the isolation of independently-minded countries of Asia. Using all the resources at its disposal to support American attempts at suppressing Asian nationalist movements, the Kishi clique is becoming increasingly the chief accomplice of the American aggressors in Asia. Japan had agreed to permit American air force to use Japanese bases to transport weapons and military material to Laos seven times a day.

Japanese military personnel are building munition plants, naval bases, and military microwave stations for South Vietnam. Japan's war reparations to South Vietnam are being used chiefly in building a power plant on the Donnai River, which eventually would supply electricity to American missile bases. Japan is also building fighter planes for the Philippines as well as sending air force personnel there for training purposes. Under American prompting, the Japanese chief-of-staff Hayashi Keizo participated in the secret military conferences at the American military base in Baguio, Philippines, which included such puppet governments as the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, South Vietnam, Laos, and the Chiang Kai-shek clique. Kishi almost sent an "observer" to the last two military exercises held by the SEATO; it was only because of the fear of provoking violent opposition during this phase of the ratification of the "security treaty" that prevented Japan's participation. As the Japanese Economist pointed out in an article of this weekly: What the United States wants from Japan is not only to realize a "Northeast Asia Treaty Organization," but also to strengthen the "Southeast Asia Treaty Organization." The aggression-tinctured military pact between Kishi's clique and American imperialists is exactly what the Japanese monopolistic interests needed in the re-creation of the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" and in the execution of their aggression in Southeast Asia.

One of the key targets in the expansion of Japanese militarism in Southeast Asia is Indonesia. Japanese monopolistic interests have always been covetous of the large area, the rich resources, and the teeming population of Indonesia. After the expulsion of Dutch colonialists by the Indonesian people, it was not long before the organ of the Japanese monopolistic interests, the Toyo Keizai Shinpo (Oriental Economic Review), began to declare openly that "the great opportunity has come." It called upon Japan to take the place of the Netherlands and to fill the "vacuum of skills and capital" left by the departure of the Dutch. Indeed, in the last year and a half, Japan has been stepping up its economic penetration of Indonesia. In April this year, the former director of the Development Bank, Kobayashi, acting as the representative of Japanese monopolistic interests, formally signed with the Indonesian government-owned petroleum company a US \$50,000,000 loan for the exploitation of oil in northern Sumatra. Indonesia guaranteed to supply Japan with crude oil and agreed to Japan's share of the dividends. Japan also is planning to reclaim the forests of Kalimantan and to extract such minerals as nickel, tin, and bauxite. In addition, Japan plans to monopolize the business of Indonesia's domestic and foreign transport systems with Japanese ships. On May 4 of this year, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, Immigration Office, High Commission of Investigation, and officers of the armed forces gathered in a conference to discuss problems of liberalizing entry requirements for those Japanese who had once personally directed the enslavement of the

Indonesian people during the period of Japanese occupation. According to diplomatic sources in Jakarta, Indonesia will soon be needing these very same Japanese personnel to take charge of Indonesian "construction projects" as stipulated in the war reparation agreement. The extensive invasion of Japanese monopolistic interests will certainly mean the destruction of Indonesia's national economy; it thus poses a threat to the independence of Indonesia. At present, more and more Indonesians are beginning to comprehend the treacherous nature of the expansion of Japanese monopolistic interests. The Indonesia Times already pointed out: "We do not trust Japan; anything bearing the signature of Japan is untrustworthy."

Another key target in the expansion of Japanese capitalism and militarism in Southeast Asia is India. In the past two years, Japan had made three loans to India with a total of US \$70,000,000. In March this year, the Japanese steel interests also signed a contract with India for the development of iron mines; it involved Japan's seizure of some 4,000,000 tons of Indian iron silicates annually on the condition of a US \$21,000,000 loan. This contract, when combined with those signed in the past, will enable Japan in a few years to increase its loot of Indian iron silicates, from the present 2,000,000 tons to 8,000,000 tons. The Japanese monopolistic interests also want to cooperate with the United States and India in developing the iron mines at Rourkela in Orissa. In addition, there are such areas in industry as clock repair works, auto repair works, machine works, and chemical works, in which using the pattern of cooperative enterprise and technical "cooperation," Japan effects its penetration into the Indian national economy.

Japanese monopolistic interests are also knocking at the gates of Malaya. In a maritime trade agreement signed recently, Japan obtained the most-favored nation treatment. In fact, at this very time, eight Japanese groups are concentrating their activities in Malaya. The enterprises they have either already established or are in the act of establishing include a fishery company, zinc-plating factory, auto-repair factory, sugar refinery, air-transport company, asbestos and cement factory, vulcanizing plant, tooth-brush factory, and several enterprises for the exploitation of various mineral resources. Malaya's iron deposits are especially coveted by Japanese monopolistic interests. The Mitsubishi Incorporated and the Mitsubishi Metal Works have established in Singapore an agency which specializes in gathering information of iron deposits in Malaya.

Japan's economic expansion in the Philippines in the past few years have also been growing at a remarkable rate. In 1953 Japanese goods accounted for only 4% of the Philippine total imports, but at present they account for 14% and are still increasing through investments and "technical cooperation." At present, Japan is in the process of negotiating a maritime trade agreement with the Philippines and an agreement to supply that country with new export credits. In the remaining countries of Southeast Asia, Japanese

monopolistic interests are also stepping up their infiltration. Thus the various countries of this area are becoming face to face with the serious threat of aggression from Japanese militarism.

But the peoples of the various Southeast Asian countries cannot allow Japanese militarism to commit aggression for a second time. They can never forget the invasion of Japanese militarists and the accompanying bloody massacres. During World War II, the Japanese imperialists in Indonesia caused some two million workers to die from forced labor, more than one hundred thousand soldiers to be made into cannon fodder, and thousands of patriots to rot in Japanese prison camps. The invasion of the Japanese imperialists in the Philippines caused more than a million lives as well as over US \$5,500,000,000 in property damage; in Burma, a loss equivalent to 18,000,000,000 rupees; in Vietnam, the death of two million people from starvation; in India, the death of over three-and-a-half million people from starvation due to the stoppage of food imports. Thus if any of the ruling cliques of the Southeast Asian countries should decide to cooperate with Japanese militarists, it is bringing certain disaster and ultimate ignominious defeat upon itself.

As the peoples of Southeast Asia know, Japanese militarism always employs economic aggression as a means for eventual military aggression. Today, since the camp of socialism is incomparably strong, the Japanese militarists, despite their alliance with American imperialists, will not dare to touch the socialist countries. They can only bully the weak, because they have always been afraid of the strong; hence their present "southward drive" is a familiar recourse. Today the Japanese army's fire power and mobility are respectively four and seven times their prewar capability. The radius of activity of Japan's submarines is already over 2,000 kilometers; that of Japan's air force is over 5,000 kilometers. The military power of Japan is already equals of the combined military power of Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, and Malaya. Once the Japanese-U.S. military pact is ratified, Japanese militarists would increase their preparations for a new invasion of Southeast Asia. The peoples of the various countries of Southeast Asia must be more vigilant than ever.

This is an era during which the east wind prevails over the west wind. If only the peoples of various Asian countries stand united and wage a determined struggle against the American and Japanese reactionaries, it is a virtual certainty that their aggressive and war-like plots would be defeated. The peoples of Asia, including those of Southeast Asia, are becoming day by day more awakened, more active, and more engaged than ever in the struggle against American imperialism and Japanese militarism. We firmly believe that the masses constitute the decisive factor in creating history, in maintaining national independence, and in preserving world peace. The peoples of the various countries of Southeast Asia



decidedly will not allow an aggressive Japanese-U.S. military pact, which is backed by Japanese militarists, to ride on their backs once again. The ambitions of Japanese militarists to expand in Southeast Asia will certainly be crushed.

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